

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-01 SIG-03 /088 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:EDSMITH:LB
APPROVED BY EUR:GSVEST
EUR/SE:RCEWING
SY:MTRETOLA

-----000201 091238Z /45

R 090102Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:PEPR, PINS, ASEC, SHU, TU

SUBJECT:U.S./ARMENIAN JOURNALIST TO INTERVIEW PRIME MINIS-
TER ECEVIT

REF: ANKARA 4242

1. EDWARD BAGOSIAN, EDITOR OF THE ARMENIAN REPORTER (NEW
YORK), INFORMED DEPARTMENT (EUR/SE) JUNE 7 THAT HE HAD RE-
QUESTED INTERVIEW WITH ECEVIT WHILE PRIME MINISTER WAS IN
NEW YORK. ECEVIT HAD WELCOMED IDEA BUT TIME HAD NOT PERMIT-
ED. ECEVIT HAD INSTEAD OFFERED TO RECEIVE HIM IN ANKARA.
THROUGH ALTEMUR KILIC OF TURKISH UN MISSION, INTERVIEW HAS
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BEEN ARRANGED FOR JUNE 15 IN ANKARA, I.E. BEFORE ECEVIT
VISIT TO USSR.

2. BAGOSIAN HAD ENDEAVORED IN PAST TO INTERVIEW TURKISH
AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON IN EFFORT TO START DIALOGUE WITH
TURKS IN ORDER TO "HEAL WOUNDS OF PAST." HE SEEMED HOPEFUL
THAT AS A RESULT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICERS OF THE

TURKISH UN MISSION THAT SOME SORT OF STATEMENT OF REGRET REGARDING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE MIGHT BE MADE BY ECEVIT.

3. BAGOSIAN SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO MAKE MODERATE STATEMENTS TO TURKISH PRESS WHILE IN TURKEY AND THAT HIS PAPER WOULD RUN PROMINENTLY AND GIVE FAVORABLE COMMENTARY ON ECEVIT ANSWER TO QUESTION ON ARMENIAN PROBLEM GIVEN IN WASHINGTON JUNE 1 AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB. (TEXT IN PARA 9

BELOW.) BAGOSIAN SAID HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN AWARE OF ECEVIT STATEMENT UNTIL IT WAS DRAWN TO HIS ATTENTION BY DEPTOFF. HE FOUND IT MOST ENCOURAGING, HE SAID.

4. DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION JUNE 7 DEPTOFF READ TO BAGOSIAN EXCERPTS FROM STATEMENT OF ARMENIAN PATRIARCH (PARA 3 REFTEL) WHICH BAGOSIAN SAID ECHOED HIS OWN NON-VIOLENT VIEWS. HE WAS ASKED WHETHER ANY OTHER AMERICAN-ARMENIAN LEADER HAD MADE OR WOULD BE MAKING ANY SIMILAR STATEMENT. BAGOSIAN REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE DONE TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE. HE IMPLIED LESS THAN UNANIMITY WHETHER SUCH STATEMENT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE MOVE BY U.S. ARMENIAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP. BAGOSIAN EMPHASIZED THAT MOST ARMENIANS DECRY VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING THEIR ENDS.

5. BAGOSIAN WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON JUNE 8 TO ATTEND MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCH IN THE SOVIET UNION. BAGOSIAN WILL FLY FROM LONDON TO ISTANBUL JUNE 13 AND PROCEED TO ANKARA JUNE 14. HE PLANS TO INVITE THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCH IN ISTANBUL TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO ECEVIT INTERVIEW.

6. IN CONVERSATION WITH DEPTOFF BAGOSIAN REFERRED TO SOME PAST DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY ARMENIAN AMERICANS WHEN ENTERING TURKEY. HE SAID HE WAS NOT CONCERNED BUT ASKED THAT CONGEN ISTANBUL AND EMBASSY ANKARA BE MADE AWARE OF HIS PLANS. SHOULD HE HAVE ANY DIFFICULTIES HE SAID HE WOULD CONTACT THE CONGEN OR THE EMBASSY.

7. WE HOPE THAT BAGOSIAN TRIP TO ANKARA WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP INDICATE THAT RESPONSIBLE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT SUPPORT, CONDONE, OR ENCOURAGE VIOLENCE AGAINST GOT REPS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO MAKE THIS CLEAR BUT OUR CONTACTS WITH U.S. ARMENIAN ORGANIZATIONS ARE LIMITED. FOR REASONS OUTLINED STATE 251748, 20 OCT 1977, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN OR SHOULD EXPLICITLY URGE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN LEADERS TO DISSOCIATE THEIR ORGANIZATIONS FROM

VIOLENCE.

8. AS A RESULT OF APPROACH TO DEPARTMENT BY TURKISH EM-BASSY DCM JUNE 6 REQUESTING ADDITIONAL SECURITY PROTECTION FOR TURKISH CONGEN SAN FRANCISCO AND IN LIGHT OF MADRID MURDERS, DEPARTMENT IS CAREFULLY REVIEWING ONCE AGAIN PROTECTION ACCORDED TURKISH MISSIONS IN U.S.

9. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ECEVIT Q & A

AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB JUNE 1: QUOTE: PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT: THANK YOU FOR THAT QUESTION SOON AFTER WE TOOK OVER GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY, OR, RATHER, TO BE MORE PRECISE, FROM MARCH ON, IN MARCH, APRIL, OR MAY -- IN MARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND IN APRIL, DELEGATIONS FROM THE GREEK ORTHODOX AND ARMENIAN COMMUNITY VISITED ME. THEY TOLD ME ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS AND WE PROMISED THEM TO SOLVE ALL THEIR PROBLEMS AND WE STARTED DOING SO. I FOLLOWED THEM UP PERSONALLY WITH SOME MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THE BUREAUCRACY HAS THE HABIT OF SOMETIMES CARRYING ON IN ITS OWN WAY IN SPITE OF POLITICAL DECISIONS. IN FACT, AFTER I LEFT TURKEY, THIS TIME I HAD TO MAKE A STOP FOR A FEW DAYS IN BRUSSELS AND I HEARD THAT SOME OF MY PROMISES WERE BEING A LITTLE WAIVED BY THE BUREAUCRACY, AND I ESTABLISHED TELEPHONE CONTACT AND I HAD THEM CORRECTED.

10. I AM CONVINCED I CAN TELL YOU THAT ALL THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. THEY ARE PARTS OF THE TURKISH NATION; OUR CONCEPT OF NATIONALITY DOES NOT DEPEND ON OR BASED ON RACIAL DIFFERENCES ANYWAY. AND, IT IS OUR NATIONAL DUTY TO TRY AND SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF ALL MINORITIES. END QUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE146478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EDSMITH:LB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780241-0667
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780673/aaaaclid.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cab5bf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANKARA 4242
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2406932
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S./ARMENIAN JOURNALIST TO INTERVIEW PRIME MINIS- TER ECEVIT
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, ASEC, SHUM
To: ISTANBUL ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cab5bf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014